

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 01924

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, UR

SUBJECT: QUAI GROPPING TOWARD NEXT STEPS IN FRENCH-
SOVIET RELATIONS

1. TREMEAU, THE QUAI'S SOVIET DESK OFFICER, TELLS THAT FOR PRESENT NO MAJOR EVENTS ARE IN WORKS IN FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS, APART FROM CONTINUING ROUTINE WORK OF MIXED COMMISSIONS AND TECHNICAL CONTACTS. IN FIRST INSTANCE, QUAI, LIKE OTHER FOREIGN MINISTRIES, IS WAITING TO SEE OUTCOME OF THE SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS. HOWEVER, THERE WAS ALSO NEW ELEMENT OF AWKWARDNESS INTRODUCED INTO SITUATION BY LESS THAN SPECTACULAR ATMOSPHERICS AND RESULTS GISCARD'S MOSCOW VISIT LAST FALL.

2. TREMEAU SAID, IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, QUAI, IN
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THIS CONTEXT, IS "TOYING" WITH TWO POSSIBILITIES:

FIRST, THAT GISCARD AGAIN VISIT MOSCOW THIS YEAR ON A "WORKING" RATHER THAN ON AN "OFFICIAL" BASIS. SUCH TRIP WOULD BE BILLED AS RESPONSE TO BREZHNEV'S "WORKING" VISIT AT RAMBOUILLET. IDEA WOULD BE TO ERASE OR MODIFY IMPRESSIONS OF GISCARD'S LAST MOSCOW VISIT WITH ONE NOT SO BURDENED BY CSCE ISSUE AND WHICH COULD PRODUCE CONCRETE, PRESUMABLY ECONOMIC RESULTS IN RELAXED ATMOSPHERE. ON THE OTHER HAND, TREMEAU SAID, QUAI RECOGNIZES THAT SUCH A SECOND MOSCOW TRIP MIGHT LOOK TO SOME LIKE A WALK TO CANOSSA. FOR THIS REASON THE SECOND IDEA UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE QUAI OF AN "OFFICIAL" BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRANCE IN RESPONSE TO GISCARD'S "OFFICIAL" MOSCOW TRIP MAY SEEM PREFERABLE TO THE ELYSEE.

3. TREMEAU EMPHASIZED THAT NO REPEAT NO OFFICIAL SANCTION EXISTS SO FAR FOR EITHER OF THESE IDEAS, PARTICULARLY ON PART OF ELYSEE. HE PRESUMED GISCARD WOULD EXPRESS HIS PREFERENCES SOON AFTER SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS AND THAT MORE DETAILED FRENCH-SOVIET PROGRAM CAN THEN BE WORKED OUT FOR REST OF YEAR.

4. COMMENT: THE PROGRAMATIC UNCERTAINTIES DESCRIBED ABOVE INCIDENTALLY ALSO SUPPORT OUR IMPRESSION THAT LAST MOSCOW TRIP HAD LEFT CERTAIN STRAIN IN THIS AREA OF QUAI-ELYSEE RELATIONS. TREMEAU AGAIN COMPLAINED RATHER POIGNANTLY, FOR INSTANCE, THAT ELYSEE CONTINUED TO BLAME QUAI FOR SOME ASPECTS GISCARD'S PROBLEMS IN MOSCOW, EVEN THOUGH QUAI'S SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN DIRECTORATE HAD WARNED AHEAD OF TIME THAT TRIP WOULD BE PROBLEMATIC, PARTICULARLY IF GISCARD MADE CSCE THE CENTER-PIECE OF TALKS.
RUSH

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